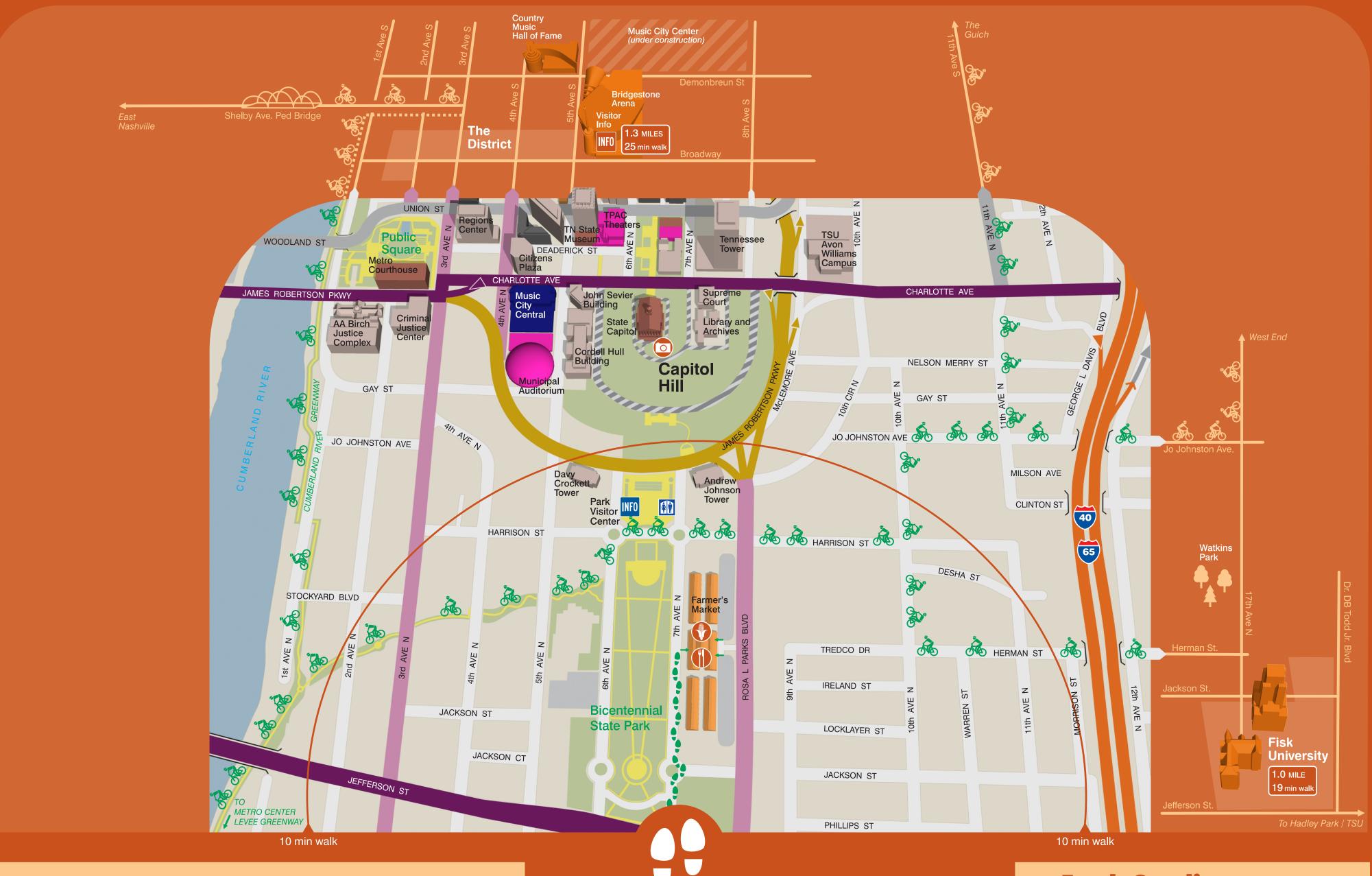
North Nashville



The Civil Rights March

In early 1960, residents of Nashville, like in many other cities around the south, staged "sit-ins" in an attempt to desegregate Downtown lunch counters. Despite the peaceful nature of the protests, over 150 sitters, mostly college students, were arrested. Their head representative in court was a lawyer named Z. Alexander Looby. On the early morning of April 19, Looby's house was bombed, but fortunately, Looby and his family were not harmed. In response, a group of 2,000 people massed at Tennessee State University later that day and began to march. By the

time they reached City Hall, their numbers had swelled to nearly 4,000. Facing this crowd, Mayor Ben West agreed that Nashville's lunch counters should be desegregated. The following day, Martin Luther King, Jr. came to Nashville to make a speech at Fisk University, where he praised the organization and peacefulness of Nashville's Civil Rights movement.





